

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 3 as follows:

The invention solves this problem by the provision of a header tube comprising one or more slots (3a to 3d) for the insertion of a respective flat tube, the slots being introduced by punching with no inner die or by internal high pressure forming, characterized in that the ratio (D/2s) of the tube outer radius (D/2) to the tube-wall thickness (s) is lower than five~~having the features of Claim 1 and. The invention also solved this problem by provision~~ of a method for the production of a header tube with one or more slots for a heat exchanger, said slots being introduced by punching with no inner die or by internal high-pressure forming, characterized in that the slot or slots (3a to 3d) are introduced parallel to or at an acute angle to the tube longitudinal axis (2) or by a method characterized in that a flat piece (5) is bent into a header tube blank open along a longitudinal gap (8) and the longitudinal gap is subsequently sealingly soldered or sealingly welded, and the slot or slots (3a to 3d) are introduced into the flat piece (5) or into the header tube blank (6) before or after the longitudinal gap (8) is sealingly soldered or sealingly welded ~~header-tube production having the features of Claim 4 or Claim 5.~~

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 3 as follows:

In the header tube mentioned above ~~according to Claim 1~~, the ratio of the tube outer radius to the tube-wall thickness has a value lower than five, that is to say, with respect to its tube outer radius, the header tube has a comparatively large tube-wall thickness which makes it suitable for applications involving a high pressure load, such as occur, for example, in motor vehicle air-conditioning systems which operate with CO₂ as refrigerant. In particular, tube-wall thicknesses of between 1.8 mm and 2.5 mm may be provided. The header tube with this large tube-wall thickness can be provided at relatively low outlay, by punching with no inner die or by internal high-pressure forming, with elongate slots, into which associated

flat-tube ends of a heat exchanger can be inserted and can be sealingly soldered or secured in a gastight manner in another way.

Please amend the third full paragraph on page 3 as follows:

In an advantageous development of the invention, ~~according to Claim 2~~ a material with a hardness of between 35 H_v and 80 H_v is selected for the header tube.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 4 as follows:

In a further refinement of the invention, ~~according to claim 3~~, the slots are formed by inwardly bent instructions, in such a way that the ratio of the tube outside diameter outside the slot region to that in the slot region is between 1.02 and 1.5.

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 4 as follows:

In the header tube production method ~~according to Claim 4~~, one or more slots are introduced into the header tube by punching with no inner die or by internal high-pressure forming and are oriented parallel to or at an acute angle to the header tube longitudinal axis. A header tube produced in this way is particularly suitable for heat exchangers, in which use is made of flat tubes with twisted ends which, as a result of the twisting, are oriented at a corresponding angle to the header tube longitudinal axis.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 as follows:

In the header tube production method ~~according to claim 5~~, in order to form the header tube, first a flat piece, which may be solder-plated, if required, is bent into a blank, the longitudinal gap which has thereby remained being subsequently sealingly soldered or

sealingly welded. The slots required for the insertion of heat exchanger flat tubes are introduced, by punching with no inner die, selectively either already into the flat piece or only into the blank bent out of the flat piece, before or after the longitudinal gap is sealingly soldered or sealingly welded.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 5 as follows:

In a further refinement of this production method, ~~according to Claim 6~~, a solder-plated flat piece is used so that a correspondingly solder-plated header tube is then obtained, thus making it easier for the longitudinal gap and/or flat-tube ends inserted into the slots to be sealingly soldered. In a further refinement of this measure, ~~according to Claim 7~~, the seal-soldering of the longitudinal gap is carried out in a common soldering operation, in which the remaining components of the heat exchanger are simultaneously soldered together, so that, overall, only one complete soldering operation is necessary for the manufacture of the heat exchanger.

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 5 as follows:

In a further refinement of the header tube production method according to the invention, ~~according to Claim 8~~, punctiform heat treatment and/or mechanical weakening is provided at the points on the header tube at which the slots are to be introduced, thus making it easier for the slots to be introduced with no inner die.